Sand, Beach, and Dune Management Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Friday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.

10th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

The following people were present:

Tom McNeilan	Thelma Drake	Don Musacchio
Eric Seymore	John Greene	Scott Hardaway
Brian Joyner	Tony Watkinson	Michelle Hamor
Larry Atkinson	Vic Yurkovic	Adam Melita
Ken Paulson	David Ricks	George Homewood
Chuck Joyner	Robert Tajan	Ray Ransom
Kyle Spencer	Lee Perkins	

Introduction and Review of Minutes: Tom McNeilan welcomed everyone. No changes were made to the minutes.

Significant Boundaries. It proved helpful to the group to clarify boundaries. East Beach is considered from Ship's Cabin east to the Little Creek inlet. East Ocean View runs westward from Ship's Cabin to 1st Bay Street. Cottage line runs westward to Chesapeake Boulevard. Pinewell runs from Norfolk Avenue west to Granby Street. West Ocean View begins at Granby Street and ends at 3rd View. Willoughby begins at 3rd View and continues to the end.

Review of Ocean View Beach Tour. Several committee members participated in a beach tour on January 7 which visited seven different sites along the beach. Separate notes are available from that tour. The following observations were shared:

- The natural dune system is widest at Sturgis with a much larger setback between structures and the beach. A secondary dune has formed.
- The largest accretion of sand is in the western portion of East Ocean View and the eastern portion of Cottage Line, extending from Beaumont Street on the west to between 13th and 15th Bay Street on the east.
- While most of the sand transport is believed to occur offshore from the shoreline due to waves and currents, wind also move sand from the beach onto the dunes.
- It was significant to see estimated 100 year old oak trees halfway covered by sand in the areas of accretion.
- Another tour in warmer weather with pictures would be helpful.

Conference Call with FEMA. Mrs. Drake arranged a conference call with a FEMA representative and several representatives from the City.
Mrs. Drake reported that it was a productive call. She provided feedback from a resident perspective on the value of the call.

- She confirmed that FEMA's maps use 2008 data, but sand had not begun to accrete until 2009.
- FEMA is willing to work with Norfolk and didn't dismiss any ideas.
- Mrs. Drake noted that FEMA is only studying water, not sand. Virginia began a sand study, but it was later defunded. Mrs. Drake has held conversations with Delegate Ransone to restore funding.

George Homewood provided feedback from a City perspective on the implications of the call.

- FEMA's definition of dunes is consistent and applies to Norfolk. There is no other category.
- Sand management is not a part of FEMA's flood map adoption process. There is no benefit to the City or Ocean View to delay the flood map adoption process.
- The purpose for FEMA's flood maps is first and foremost to measure risk for flood insurance rating. It was not designed as a regulatory tool. The determination to require flood insurance is from individual lenders, not the government.
- Both the City and individual citizens can appeal flood maps, but FEMA requires engineering studies and surveys.
- Elevation certificates on individual properties are more accurate and helpful in the appeal process for reducing flood insurance.
- Modifications to a dune in a VE zone are possible, but require submission and approval of a plan to FEMA. A plan is submitted with a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) along with documentation and an approximately 30 page application. If approved, FEMA issues a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).
- FEMA does not prohibit beach access in a VE zone, but the City adopted standards in 2011.

Update on City Activities. Chuck Joyner summarized the "Willoughby Spit and Vicinity Beach Nourishment Project" with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In this case, "vicinity" covers all seven miles of Norfolk's coast. The project was originally proposed many years ago, but not funded by the USACE. The post Sandy recovery bill allowed authorized, but unfunded, projects – such as the Willoughby project – to be funded (at desirable cost sharing terms).
The project will provide for 1.2 million cubic yards of initial sand nourishment, and periodic re-nourishment (up to 445,000 cubic yards) every nine years. The presentation also covered an overview of budget items, including $100,000 set aside to implement the committee's recommendations.
The project is expected to begin in November 2015 and end be completed in May of 2016. [The presentation will be posted to the committee website.] Michelle Hamor answered questions about the project. She also reported that the Army Corps of Engineers Project uses a profile of the beach, but the profile can change. Adjustments can be made to the project.

GIS Applications. Kyle Spencer demonstrated a special GIS application being developed by the City for use by those studying the issue. Available layers include multiple data sets, VIMS data, multi-year aerial photography, topography, dune crest and 3D capability.

National Weather Service. Eric Seymour spoke on a project by the National Weather Service that might be helpful to the committee. The NWS established nine points of measurement last summer to measure water levels relative to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel measuring station and beach-dune profiles. The intended

outcome of their study is to forecast and warn those where beach erosion is most likely to take place during storms. A storm in November provided some level of validity to their research.

Considerations for Next Meeting. Because of time restrictions, it was decided to forgo responses to the questionnaire until next meeting. Members raised additional considerations for the next meeting.

- Technical studies. Technical personnel will delve further into research about the sand accretion problem. Of great importance is determining why sand accretes in that one area and how to mitigate the problem without causing other problems elsewhere. Mr. Hardaway raised the question of another, although counter-intuitive, possibility whether adding more sand to where sand is accreting could allow a secondary dune system to develop. Over time the primary dune would become the secondary dune and reduce sand encroachment near structures.
- Members asked to begin forming specific recommendations moving from simple and short term, to more complex long term recommendations. Recommendations mentioned include:
    - Increase setbacks between structures and the beach.
    - Establish a uniform distance between the landward toe of the dune and structures, and also dune height that can maintained.
- A timeline is requested to create deadline for the committee's work.

Action Item	Owner	Due
1. Website. Mr. McNeilan will email the committee website to members.	Tom McNeilan	After meeting
2. Base Map. Kyle Spenser will create a base map of the entire beach area to use as a common reference.	Kyle Spencer	As soon as able
3. Technical Studies. Technical personnel will discuss and evaluate research outside of meetings.	Technical personnel	By next meeting
4. Questionnaire Response. Due to postponement, members may send any notes to Mr. McNeilan regarding the questionnaire responses.	Committee members	By next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 to 12:00, Friday, March 27, 2015 in the 10th Floor Conference Room of City Hall